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# REEDY'S MIRROR

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WILLIAM M. REEDY, Editor and Proprietor.

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## The President is Right

By William Marion Reedy

IF the United States should enter the war, surely it may be said that never before has a nation gone to war so reluctantly. It will be said, too, that never has a nation taken such precaution of preparedness as we have done in the prime requisite of being indisputably in the right. Had Germany been prepared in that respect she never had raided Belgium and lost the sympathy of the world through disregard of what Bismarck called "the imponderables."

President Wilson has followed the advice of Davy Crockett: "First be sure you are right; then go ahead." For nearly three years his has been the patience of Lincoln under a mad world's contumely. Accused of cowardice at home and cavalierly dealt with abroad by belligerents, he has held his course true to the principle of non-intervention in a foreign quarrel and to the doctrine that our concern is only that the belligerents shall carry on the war with due regard to international law and the dictates of humanity. At last, having secured assent to the demand that German submarines should not sink vessels without warning, the German government now repudiates the agreement, announces a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare in restricted sea areas and graciously permits the sailing of one American ship per week, with conditions of a most humiliating character as to that ship's destination. To this command of Germany—"keep off the sea," the President replies by severing relations with that country, as he said he would do in the note with reference to the sinking of the *Sussex*. Germany committed the overt act. The consequences are upon her head.

The people of the United States will now see, probably, the reasonableness of the so much derided Wilson policy. They will remember that Ambassador Gerard came from Berlin and told the President something. Immediately thereafter came the President's tentative suggestion of peace, with a request for the terms of the belligerents. Germany forestalled him with vague adumbrations of pacificatory receptivity, but he made, later, in a speech to congress, a further suggestion defining his views of a Monroe Doctrine for the world, guaranteeing the security of smaller nations and suggesting an international league of peace. Is it not plain that what Ambassador Gerard told the President was the intention to repudiate the *Sussex* agreement, which had, so far as this country was concerned, a meaningless reservation making the agreement dependent upon our exacting certain compliances of the Entente with restrictions of the blockade of Germany? The President's peace note and peace speech were designed to forestall the outbreak of "frightfulness" that has come. They are appeals rather to the people of the nations at war than to the governments. They were peace pleas which read now as our perfect exculpation of any purpose to force a break with any party to the war. They set forth clearly our conception of freedom of the seas, and now Germany tells us that the sea is hers and our ships shall not sail it save at her sweet will. No sovereign nation, how pacific soever, could submit to such wanton insult.

Moreover, President Wilson has been preparing in another way. In the light of the happenings of the past week we can understand the mystifying mazes of his Mexican policy. The withdrawal of the troops from that country removes the possibility

of a war with Carranza's government and Villa's guerillas. With "frightfulness" at sea looming imminent, a Mexican war would have been at the least an inconvenient distraction. The withdrawal of Gen. Pershing's forces clears the decks for possible action against more dangerous foes. The President's apparently vague idealism is now seen for what it is—a part of a foresighted manoeuvring for practical advantage of position. He got right and got ready at the same time, and in getting right solidified his people behind him in support of his determination.

But what of his bellicosity? Now after his peace palavers he is not bellicose. If there is to be war, Germany must make the move thereto. It must withdraw the insulting orders to our ships or it must proceed to acts against which we have made the most solemn protest short of war. The President's peace proposals stand. They are proposals in behalf of all neutrals. Now these proposals are strengthened by the President's invitation to all neutrals to join with the United States in protest against Germany's declaration of warfare upon all neutral shipping. Many neutrals will do so, among them the Latin-American powers, and it is important to reflect that the Latin-American powers would not be sympathetic to us if we had forced a war upon Mexico. Blind indeed must be those frantic pacifists who cannot see that in the break with Germany on behalf of neutrals and humanity, is found the beginning of that international league of peace which has been the dream of the best minds of all nations since the days of Grotius. The President is right, and his diplomacy has been such as to make the world situation shape itself to his hands. The country is unexpectedly prepared for the crisis that has come, particularly prepared in unanimity of spirit. It is prepared for war, or for peace. It has sought peace. War must be forced upon it. That is the condition in which we find ourselves. Whatever else may be at fault, the country's conscience is clear, and "thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just."

♦♦♦♦

## Reflections

By Alpheus Stewart

The Chief Returns

IT will be with relief, perhaps, that the MIRROR School of Literature will here find the information that the Chief is expected in St. Louis in time to issue the next number of this journal. It is no picnic to substitute for Reedy. The readers of the MIRROR are scattered all over the world. They constitute a kind of intellectual aristocracy. They are both exacting and discriminating, and hence one approaches such a school in the attempt to substitute for the High Priest, with considerable trepidation. This class of readers want Reedy—his style of writing and his way of thinking, his originality and his progressive courage. They do not care for substitutes, and hence they will doubtless be glad when they find the Chief back on the job next week.

♦♦

Adjustments to Conditions

A REMARKABLE phase of the break with Germany and the imminence of war, is the little depression it has had on business conditions. Stocks broke but a few points when Wilson made his speech to congress announcing the suspension of diplomatic relations. Even "paper values" were scarcely affected and real values not at all. The buyers are crowding St. Louis hotels, and Washington avenue says that trade was never better. If war with Germany does come, it



is evident that business will meet the crisis in other forms than it met the beginning of the great European cataclysm. Whether this country is involved in war or not, it is the belief of the authorities on that question that business will not be greatly disturbed, unless the demand of the government for cars still further increases the car shortage. One reason business is so little disturbed is that we have become pretty well adjusted to war conditions. Thus we witness the phenomenon of wars disturbing business less than the rumors of peace. This is illustrated in the way business was disturbed by Wilson's peace note.

There never was a time when such optimism prevailed in trade circles. All lines of business are expecting and preparing for a record-breaking spring trade. People who have commodities to sell are in the midst of their harvest, with little thought, apparently, of what will happen when business will have to make new adjustments when peace is declared.

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#### Ely's Play

I HAVE been to see Lewis B. Ely's play, "A Dry Town," which is at the Players' this week. I followed the play with interest and I laughed. It had that effect on me and I noted that it had the same effect on the full house that was in attendance. And that is more than may be said of some plays that I have witnessed lately that have been touted because of the stamp of Broadway (New York) that has been upon them. The press agents always state as their most forcible recommendation of any attraction that it has been presented on Broadway a certain number of hundreds of times, with great acclaim. That is supposed to settle it for all persons who, like ourselves, dwell beyond the cultural influence of Broadway's tired haberdashers. But Ely, a man in the outer limbo of Broadway's superior culture, has given us something that is the superior of the usual Broadway product. It hasn't the ragtime of Broadway but it does have real comedy; there are no tintinabulations of "Tin Pan Alley" but there is a realistic presentation of a phase of a great issue; there are no "legs," but there is plenty of wit. It is a good play. The daily newspapers have not given it the praise it deserves—perhaps because Ely has been himself a newspaper man. The dailies never say anything good of another newspaper man if they can avoid it. The men who write the stuff are afraid the business office will object, as there is never any chance to get any money out of a newspaper man. Perhaps that is the reason that the dailies have not given "A Dry Town" the acclaim that it deserves, not merely because it is a play with a Missouri setting by a St. Louis man, but because it is a play that will stand anywhere on its own merits. Perhaps it is partly because of the cowardice which seems to have gripped the newspapers as well as our leading citizens as to the prohibition question, now that everybody sees that the mania is due to run its course. This is observable even in the advance notices of the play, which it is announced is disposed to be "liberal," but which may be tolerated by the prohibitionist. The play, in fact, is a remorseless exposure of the fakery and the fraud of prohibition. There is nothing in it of comfort to the prohibitionist. Mr. Ely even makes the leader of a committee of the W. C. T. U. renounce the creed and admit that "an ounce of self-restraint is worth a pound of prohibition," which is a rank violation of the reality and an entirely impossible assumption of tolerance.

I am not disposed to commend the play without stating exceptions. The lugging of *Col. Trapp*, former politicians, but now an evangelist, into the last act in order to take a swipe at the Sunday style of sensationalism, seems to be an excess. And if it is necessary to bring *Trapp* back, accompanied by his trainer and rubber, he should look sleeker and smugger than he did as a politician, instead of being reminiscent of a tragedian of the old school. The office of the *Gourdville Blade* contained some features that reminded me of a time thirty years

ago when I ran a paper on a prairie southwest of here and after I had printed one side on an "army" press, had to unlock the form to get "sorts" to set the other side; but while he is a newspaper man it is evident that Mr. Ely has never run a country paper. Girls do not distribute type with the same motion they throw at hens, and type is not shipped in a pasteboard box, which is handled as though it were empty. But these and other minor deficiencies in realism may not be noticed by the general public.

The play is wonderfully well acted. From seeing it you would never know that it is a new play and is being presented by a stock company. The types are all fairly true to country life, but worthy of special commendation is the work of Hardee Kirkland as *Col. Luther Trapp*, the prohibition politician who has an interest in a distillery. He does not over-do the part of the villain. He is not a sneaking or a sneering rascal, but is just the brusque, seemingly frank and politic person that he should be to present the role properly. Another member of the company to whom especial praise is due is Louis John Bartels, who plays the part of the printer's "devil." He has all the grime, the insouciance and the lovable democracy of the regular printer's "devil." Here is the making of a fine comedy part. Mr. Ely should extend and expand it. He should not leave his audiences to regret that there is not more of it.

It is sufficient to say that despite a number of crudities, which will doubtless be smoothed away, "A Dry Town" is a better play than dozens of attractions which the citizens of this town have been paying from a dollar and a half to two dollars to see.

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#### An Over-Zealous Grand Jury

THE grand jury that has just dissolved, by its report reveals that it was one of those crusading bodies that imagines the world is to be regenerated by making everybody conform to the evangelical conception of conduct and morals. But in its zeal it overreached itself. It took to meeting informally outside the grand jury room to investigate vice and election frauds. This got to the ears of the court and Judge Kimmel forbade the jury, much to its disappointment, to consider either the vice question or election frauds. As its report shows, the denial of the privilege of investigating election frauds was no great disappointment; but the refusal of permission to bring in indictments on the vice question evidently was, for it devotes a large part of the report to that very thing. And that is characteristic of your reformer who is possessed of a mania for reforming things that are really none of his business. He gets his sense of values inverted. To him the age-old vices of mankind are the things of paramount importance. Crime, in this evaluation, takes a secondary place. Evidently in the opinion of the recent grand jury, it was far more important to find some way to chase a few unfortunate women into the river than it was to find a way to circumvent the election crooks. The report tells us that vice conditions in St. Louis are deplorable, although one who has known St. Louis a long time perhaps knows that such conditions are no worse than they have ever been. The recent vice-obsessed grand jury seem to have failed to understand that such a report is in effect an indictment of the brother anti-vice crusaders. These have labored long, if not effectively, in their attempts to moralize St. Louis. There is the Committee of One Hundred, led by that gallant reformer, J. Lionberger Davis, which armed with sermons and clubs, has been chasing poor, outcast women for two or three years. Now comes this grand jury and say conditions are worse than ever. Before they make any more reports, the grand jury and the other brethren should get together.

One finds it hard to believe that there is general protection of vice by politicians and the police as the grand jury charges. Chief Young says that if there is such protection he does not know it. Other people who are well advised as to conditions here say the same thing. Vice conditions are about what

they may be expected to be in a big city. The reports of the police and the grand jury say that crime conditions are much worse. The theory of the jury is that the best way to prevent crime, is to swat vice with still less mercy. For it is a remarkable fact that the brethren charge all crime to vice. There is nothing to prove this position. Many men are criminal before they are vicious, while many more are vicious, according to evangelical standards, who never become criminal. This constant and hysterical anti-vice crusade, especially insofar as it shows an unhealthy sex obsession, is an infernal nuisance. It never accomplishes anything. All the drastic repressive laws that have ever been passed dealing with these problems have apparently never had any reformatory effect. The reason may be easily discovered. The genesis of such offenses lies deep in our social structure and vices will exist as long as the causes remain.

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#### German Propaganda

ONE of the things likely to astonish the future is a revelation of the marvelous extent of the German organization for the prosecution of this war. We are now seeing some, but not all of the influences that have been perfecting details for many years with the purpose of waging war. Gold must have been hoarded every year for decades with the purpose of prosecuting this war, else Germany with its scant natural resources could never have gone as far as it has. The full story of the world-wide Germany spy system may some day be revealed. We have seen from its effects that such a system, wonderfully organized, is in existence. Running concurrently is the German propaganda intended to influence the world favorably toward Germany. This uses books, newspapers, other periodicals, speakers and special agents. More books in defense of Germany have probably been printed in this country than have been published favorable to the other side, although it may be said that these last do not bear the marks of organized propaganda. There are several periodicals devoted to advising the world of the righteousness of Germany, which beyond doubt rest on subventions. Newspaper men say that in the dispatches Germany daily "fights for the front page." That country has had only the wireless station at Sayville through which to get uncensored news into the country, but it is able in some way to land about twice as much news as the Allies—all favorable to Germany, of course. Adolphe Smith, recognized as a leader of French Socialists, although of English blood, has recently attributed to German Socialists and German agents among the Socialists of other nations, the break-down of Internationalism with the coming of the present war. He cites a number of cosmopolitans who are leaders in the councils of the Socialists of the Allied nations, who are in reality pro-German in sympathy. These men have recently been busily engaged in advocating peace in France and the other Allied nations. Peace, it is assumed is what Germany wanted.

In fact, the ramifications of the German propaganda and the spy system in foreign lands that will be revealed after the war ends is likely to surprise the world. All this is, of course, costing a great deal of money in addition to the hundreds of millions that are being spent for actual war purposes. What is the secret of the extraordinary financial strength that Germany, a relatively poor nation, has shown in this war? The Allies long ago applied to neutrals for financial assistance. Germany is cut off from appealing to this source for help. Yet so far it has been able to find money, not only to finance the army, but to employ an enormous number of special agents and propagandists. The only explanation of the extraordinary financial strength Germany has shown would seem to be that well-known story of the underground vaults of the Castle of Spandau. As the story runs, Germany took the billion dollars she received from France as war indemnity in 1871, dumped it into the Spandau vaults and every year has been putting a cart load or two of gold with it. It thus follows that Germany has the money



to prosecute this war because for nearly half a century she has been saving the money for that purpose.

But while the German propaganda is perhaps marvelously organized, the Germans made one serious mistake. The propaganda lacked a basis of sound principles. It was perfected in all details, but its purpose was to advocate ideas to which the sentiment of mankind is opposed.



#### The Railroads and Land Values

THE railroads have received from this country a body of land greater in size than the state of Texas. This is recalled by a circular letter from the Committee on Industrial Relations, directing attention to the injustice of the railroads compelling the people to pay taxes on land valuations which the people themselves have created. A national committee, with John J. Hopper, register of New York county, at its head, has been formed with the purpose of striving to prevent this injustice.

Said Clifford Thorne, when Railroad Commissioner of Iowa: "The total original cost of the lands of the Northern Pacific at the terminals in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, including purchases to April 30, 1908, was \$4,527,228.76. The master allowed as their value, apart from the improvements made by the company, which, as we have said, were embraced in the other items of reproduction cost, the sum of \$17,315,869.45. In 1910, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Co. insisted that the law entitled them to a return upon present value estimated at \$530,000,000. 'Out of the difference between the original investment of \$258,000,000, and the estimated present value of \$530,000,000, it has been estimated that the increase in land value amounts to approximately \$150,000,000.' And this property represents less than one-fortieth of the railway capitalization in the country."

The railroads were given land on the theory that their building would develop the country, and that from the development would come the business to sustain them. The settlement of the land by the people rendered valuable all the other land retained by the railroads. It is not surprising that they should attempt to collect the unearned increment on land. It is the custom. In the case of the railroads, however, there is the fact of special privileges granted, and of a corresponding public restraint that does not apply in the case of the private landlord. The law may thus be able to prevent the roads collecting from the people an income on land values the people have themselves created. As far as the work has progressed, it has been found by the physical valuation committee of the Interstate Commerce Commission, that nearly all railroad property, including land, has been greatly over-valued by the railroad companies. Thus it was found that the Kansas City Southern could be replaced for \$25,257,000, including the land, but its capitalization was \$99,000,000.

The economic equilibrium never will be approximated until we begin at the beginning and deal with the land monopoly.



#### The Birth Control Propaganda

THE birth control advocates are having their inning before the public, having succeeded to an extent in enforcing their propaganda by a mild sort of martyrdom. Mrs. Margaret Sanger, in New York, has just been sentenced to thirty days in the workhouse, where her sister, Mrs. Ethel Byrne, has been doing a hunger strike in the interest of the cause. Both are being punished for telling women how to prevent the coming of undesired children.

If it will do nothing else, it will serve to call attention to another instance of the Pharisaic readiness of the American people to substitute formulas for facts. There is a theory that Nature should be allowed to take her prolific course in the matter of populating the earth; that it is wrong to interfere with her tendencies in that direction. Therefore we have adopted formulas, called laws, intended to forbid such interference. The formulas will not work, because many people believe nature to be wild and unintelligent in some of her dispositions

as to particular cases, whatever may be the wisdom of her final purpose. They therefore use their reason in this to control and check nature, as they do in nearly all the other affairs of life. Hence the conflict of the formula with the facts.

It is true enough that while there are stern laws forbidding, after conception, attempts to restrain the fecundity of nature, it is also entirely true that these laws are constantly violated. The result has been to cover with a veil of secrecy a question which should be dealt with openly and by experts. Physicians of experience and skill will not take the risk of being out of line with the law, and hence the matter is dealt with by amateurs and irresponsible quacks. The health of thousands of good women is ruined under the present repressive laws. It is all due to our stubborn refusal to recognize things as they are, and our foolish belief that we can substitute theories for facts. Attempts to limit the family to a size that can be cared for are being made every day, regardless of the law. The law, apparently, has little effect in restraint, save where it ought not to be—on physicians who could handle the matter in a way to preserve the health of womankind.

Mrs. Sanger and her sister will have done well if they succeed in emphasizing the evils that come from insisting on an impossible moral formula.



#### Upside Down

WE are assured by German publicists and newspapers that the recent submarine policy entered upon by the Kaiser is justified because it means the speedy ending of the war. It may, but the outside world does not see the same ending that the Germans see. If America enters the war against Germany, it will doubtless bring forth other complacent statements from this source to the same effect. German sentiment, incredible as it may appear, seems saturated with the belief that whenever the odds against it are increased it is further assurance of German victory. Germany in this war is like a man who sees his reflection in the eye of a camera—upside down. The more a thing is so the less it is so.



#### Prosperity and Poverty

WE hear about the overflowing prosperity of this country, and see evidences of it in the dividends of steel and ammunition corporations, that show profits in one year that are double the amount of capital invested. The spenders are said to be rushing to New York and other centers in an effort to find methods to "get action" on their money. But there is the reverse of the picture. Somebody is paying the enormous prices now asked for all commodities. It is easy to guess who has to pay. It is the man least able to pay.

We are making a loud outcry about the prosperity that is ours, and indeed the war has brought us riches extraordinary; but all loud approvals of the desirable situation omit the fact that this prosperity is not equably distributed. It has reached only those people who have commodities to sell. It is true that wages have been raised nearly everywhere. Nearly all industries are now paying their men from ten to twenty per cent more than they did two or three years ago, but what avails that when the prices of all the necessities of life are seventy-five, one hundred or two hundred per cent more than they were three years ago? The war has made possible general employment, and that is a good thing, but as to wages, there are few wage workers who are not worse off now than they were three years ago. They have steady employment, it is true, but they find it almost impossible to live on what is paid.

It is rather discordant to have the pacans of prosperity interrupted by the truth, but the fact is that the St. Louis Provident Association finds this winter very little better than other winters in seasons of general depression. It says it must have \$60,000 more to enable it to go through the winter. During the recent cold snap, as many as three hundred homeless men applied at Father Dempsey's hotel in one night. The new free municipal lodging house

was overcrowded on recent cold nights, and there seems to be an amount of poverty and distress at singular variance with the claims as to prosperity.

It is true that prosperity abundantly exists, but it is by no means general. It is a case of maladjustment, similar to that caused to commerce by the outbreak of the war. It will be remembered that the declaration of war caused wheat to suddenly rise in price while cotton dropped to almost nothing. It was highly advantageous to the wheat owner, but that at the time was no benefit to the cotton growers. Later the situation was adjusted and the cotton grower got his share. The times are still out of joint. Conditions have not been adjusted all along the line. The extraordinary prices asked for the necessities of life lie with cruel effect on nearly all the people who work for wages. Thousands of such workers have not had their wages increased, although they find the means of subsistence doubled. This means that the salaries of such persons have been cut in two. It is possible to expect the situation to adjust and approximately equalize itself, but that will take time. In the meantime, while some of our people have too much prosperity, there is a much greater number who have too little.



#### Our Military System

OUR military system organized on a "pork" basis was shown by the border mobilization to be of little worth as a war machine. The country is on the verge of war but there is no rush to the colors, such as has taken place in every other instance when there was prospect of war. In St. Louis there has been no increased percentage in enlistments since the break with Germany. This is not due to a lack of patriotism. Previous wars will prove that. It is chiefly because the people have no confidence in the military institution created by the politicians. The latter would have nothing but the useless National Guard system as a reserve force. They were told by all the authorities that it wouldn't work and the mobilization to a degree proved it. The military institution is without prestige. It has no attraction for the average young man. In case of war, this country in a military sense, would be up in the air. A comparatively small body of men, if they could get past our navy, could invade us. It is clear enough that if we do come to grips with Germany, in less than two weeks we will be demanding compulsory service. The volunteer method is proved by the few men who have volunteered in the last three years and who fail to come to the front now, to be wholly inadequate to meet the situation. "Pork" and patriotism do not harmonize.



#### More Censors

BY all means let us have that moving picture censorship proposed by the state legislature. It may be impossible to prohibit everything, although we do seem to be in a fair way to legally tag most things with a *Verboten* sign; therefore we should get busy finding out what things we intend to permit people to do. Of course, it will be necessary to censor whatever is permitted. But the most attractive thing about the paternalistic millennium which is about to be introduced is the number of jobs it will create. It is possible we may yet reach that beatific condition when one-half the population will be regularly employed in watching the conduct of the other half. The movie censorship bill now in the legislature provides places for twenty-three needy henchmen of politicians. This to start with. It will be easy enough to increase the number to fifty or five hundred—all to the laudable end that people may be kept from seeing the pictures they want to see, for if they didn't want to see them, every citizen could do his own censoring by simply refusing to look.

A great many sensible people in St. Louis, including the organized club women, are opposed to this further invasion of popular rights, but opposition like that will not have much weight. The politicians care very little about the principles involved in such a measure. They care no more whether the censorship is needed or not. Their minds are fixed on

those twenty-three jobs—to begin with. They are fascinated by that angle of the case and they will be difficult to deal with.

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#### Gardner Ready to Fight

THE opposition to the Gardner programme to rehabilitate the state government, is all a matter of miserable, sordid politics. Not a sound argument has yet been urged against his programme. The opposition is known to be entirely selfish. With Democratic politicians bidding for the best terms as payment for their support of the Gardner bills, a new opponent enters the contest in the shape of the combined Republican membership of the legislature. These patriots evidently didn't want the public to think that they are any better than a number of their Democratic colleagues, so they met in caucus and decided that as there was no sound reason on which to oppose the Gardner bills, they would oppose the more vital bills on the simple ground of patronage. They will oppose a bill to provide for a constitutional convention, unless it is made bi-partisan. As the delegates are elected by senatorial districts, it will be seen to what extent these politicians are ready to carry their partisanship—to the extent even of nullifying the will of the people. They demand that the prison reform bill be amended, so that the Board of Control consists of a number of Republicans equal to the number of Democrats, and the same demand is made as to the bill to place all eleemosynary institutions under the authority of a central body. The selection of delegates to a constitutional convention is in the hands of the people, and the attempt to take it therefrom is an act of arrogance and an inexcusable abuse of power. The demands as to the other two measures because of the emergency that exists, and because thus the defeat of the bills may be accomplished, are not justified. And in addition to that, the demand is against precedent. There may, indeed, be more equity in a bi-partisan body, but this may not always be desirable, as it may produce an equilibrium that is inertia.

At any rate, the selfish demands of the Republican caucus threaten to defeat the Gardner bills. It is stated that this has aroused the governor. He threatens to take the stump to ask that the people force the passage of his measures. He very properly states that prior to drafting the programme he consulted many men who are considered the highest authorities in the state, and that he isn't going to see the bills defeated without a fight.

The governor manifests the proper spirit. He is on the right course. The average peanut politician is generally callous to public sentiment, but there are few of them who would be able to withstand the pressure if the governor carried his case to the people. The politicians of neither party have any defense. The bills proposed are good measures, it is admitted—perhaps the best that could be devised in the circumstances. The measures are reforms which have long pressed for practical application. There is no pretense made that the opposition to them rests on anything but a petty, political, opportunism. It is a disgrace to the state that a sufficient number of men clothed with the power to make laws should oppose reforms of the highest necessity to the state for no other reason than mean and selfish political profit. If the governor carries the cases of these political tricksters to the people, he will win, for he is so entirely right in his position that the people will undoubtedly back him.

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## Root, Taft and Eliot

AS SPENCERIAN EDITORS

By Victor S. Yarros

THE idea of republishing, in a magazine, Herbert Spencer's volume of "anti-Socialistic" essays entitled, "Man versus the State," was not a very happy one. The quarter in which this idea originated did not lend it any weight or significance. Nothing could be less timely or relevant than this enterprise. However, the matter was of

no special importance, and deserved no attention.

But the Spencerian essays have been once more gathered together into a book, and such eminent Americans as ex-Senator Root, ex-President Taft, Senator Lodge and ex-President Eliot of Harvard—not to mention lesser lights—have supplied what the publishers call "appropriate comments" on those pseudo-individualistic tracts. We are told that Spencer's essays, "though written many years ago," ought to be read and pondered to-day because they are "of particular application to the social and economic problems that America is facing."

Now, there is not the smallest danger that any enlightened person who is able to see things as they are, and in relation to things as they were, will be seriously impressed or misled by the volume in question, even if the "appropriate comments" be thrown in. Spencer's essays on the antagonism between the individual and the state, on the "great political superstition" (meaning majority rule), on the alleged decline and treason of the British Liberal party, etc., are particularly inapplicable to our own present political, social and economic conditions. The incongruity is, indeed, so glaring that one is ashamed to labor the point. One would no more think of seriously debating at this late day Spencer's propositions in those once famous essays than he would think of elaborately refuting, in the light of modern philosophy and social psychology, Max Stirner's "*Der Einzige und Sein Eigenthum*." We have new ways and forms of thought; the language of the political and ethical metaphysicians is alien and even ludicrous to us. The whole episode, therefore, might be treated merely as another illustration of human capacity for blindness and resistance to fact.

Perhaps, however, the gayety of progressive mankind may be slightly promoted by pointing out the remarkable inconsistency of the commentators and editors of the new-old collection of essays.

Spencer, in his last phase, was decidedly pessimistic and unphilosophic. He was amusingly un-Spencerian. Somehow, Evolution failed to evolve to his satisfaction, and "the inevitable operation of cosmic forces" caused him strange mortification and grief. He did not, however, limit his hot and indignant reproaches to trade unions and to advocates of "over-legislation" and paternalistic regulation. He complained bitterly of "the rebarbarization of society" by the conscriptionists and the militarists. He spoke of our world as one which continued "to be occupied by peoples given to political burglary." ("Justice," page 71.) He would hardly have approved the position of his editors, Messrs. Root and Taft, on the Colombia-Panama canal question. He probably would have called the whole isthmian business an instance of political burglary. However, why draw on inference or conjecture? Let us call attention to a few passages in Spencer's latest edition of "Justice," and ask the American editors and commentators of his "Man vs. the State" essays why they should not republish these equally interesting utterances of the great enemy of "Socialism"—why they should not commend these deliberate and mature utterances as "of particular application to the social and economic problems that America is facing?"

Take this extract from the chapter in "Justice," on the rights of free exchange and free contract:

"Interference with the liberty to buy and sell for other reasons than that just recognized as valid (danger to national defence) is a trespass by whatever agency effected. Those who have been allowed to call themselves 'protectionists' should be called aggressionists; since forbidding A to buy of B, and forcing him to buy of C (usually on worse terms), is clearly a trespass on that right of free exchange which we have seen to be a corollary from the law of equal freedom."

How do Messrs. Taft, Root, Lodge, *et al.*, like this? They are "aggressionists;" they are bad, bold violators of the fundamental law of equal freedom; they are as bad as those who believe in restrictions on woman's labor or the employer's right of individual bargaining!

Or take these sentences from the chapter on the constitution of the state:

"Everyone who receives the benefits which government gives should pay some share of the costs of government, and should directly, and not indirectly, pay it."

"This last requirement is all important. The aim of the politician commonly is to raise public funds in such ways as shall leave the citizen partly or wholly unconscious of the deductions made from his income. Customs duties and excise duties are not unfrequently advocated for the reason that through them it is possible to draw from a people a larger revenue than could be drawn were the amount contributed by each demanded from him by the tax-gatherer. But this system, being one which takes furtively sums which it would be difficult to get openly, achieves an end which should not be achieved. The resistance to taxation, thus evaded, is a wholesome resistance; and, if not evaded, would put a proper check on public expenditure." (Pages 199-200.)

In the same volume, as in the final edition of "Social Statics," in "Facts and Comments," and in other books, Spencer iterated and reiterated his objections to "state tamperings with money and banks." He advocated absolutely free banking and free issue of circulating notes. How do Messrs. Taft and Root relish these "corollaries from the law of equal freedom?"

Spencer advocated the free administration of justice and denounced the present legal and judicial system as an example of "a miserable *laissez faire*" policy.

Spencer denounced imperialism and colonialism and heaped scorn on "the white man's burden" in lands inhabited by "inferior races." How would Messrs. Root, Taft and Lodge treat an invitation to re-edit these passages and commend them to contemporary readers interested in the Philippines, Porto Rico and Mexico?

It is to be feared that the editors and commentators of the "Man vs. the State" essays do not know their Spencer. Some ignoramus "discovered" those "anti-Socialistic" tracts and conceived the "happy thought" of republishing them. The eminent statesmen, as ignorant as himself of Spencer's teachings, fell into the trap and eagerly supplied comments. A little more knowledge would have deterred them from making an appeal to Spencer's ethics and sociology. His books are full of passages that Messrs. Taft, Root and Lodge would find far less palatable than the plutocratic individualists find the quotations leveled at "paternalism," over-legislation, Socialism, popular and direct government by the majority, etc. Their enterprise is only provocative of mirth among real students of Spencerian and anti-Spencerian literature of a quite remote past.

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## Wrestlers

By J. R.

TOMORROW he would see her at the rooms she had taken, and know for certain whether reconciliation were possible. But if it were not, then he would go abroad. Paris, Marseilles, then the Mediterranean, he thought, and a thrill of pleasure went through him. In twenty-four hours he could be standing on the quay at Marseilles, caught up in its motley crowds. But this only held him for a minute. He was very tired. His eyes could hardly keep open. He began to fear that a nervous breakdown was imminent. He said to himself: "It's probably affected me more than I care to admit." Very tired, he went to bed.

Still tired, and with dark circles under his eyes, he awoke the next morning. Before him he knew there was this appointment for five in the afternoon. All the morning it was weighing on him, distracting him. Each second prolonged itself into eternity. Breakfast, which he purposely drew out as long as he could, came to an end a little after ten. What to do till five? he could not think. Finally the moments dragged themselves into afternoon and lunch. But for some reason he could eat nothing. Irresistible forces were impelling him into the street. Blankly, and it seemed to him without thinking, he put on his hat, his coat, and a moment later was in the street. For a while he stared about him, then



made for the West End. At three o'clock he found himself at St. Martin's Church—with still two hours to spare. He went into the Consecration.

Peace came to him as he went through the carpeted corridors. On the stage a florid beauty was finishing the latest song. Applause greeted her. Now the lights were put out and the orchestra began to play a lively march. The whole place waited tensely for the new turn. Then the curtain was raised on two wrestlers. One was fat and one was thin, and together their antics and their attempts to overcome each other were ludicrous to see. He had never laughed so much in all his life. Now and then he stopped himself with a shock and a suspicion that it was hysterical, this laughter, and yet how true to life they were!

And he and she, that other—were they not two wrestlers, and had they not always been seeking each other's weaknesses to take advantage of them? For the rest of the performance his mind was taken up with this new idea. He could not forget it. How like they were to lovers! One was fat and one was thin, and always they were searching for each other's weaknesses. How his friends must have laughed as the audience was now laughing! This was bitter, and at five minutes to five he left the hall, his thoughts somber and brooding. "She betrayed me," he said to himself; and again, "She betrayed me."

The minute or two he spent on the doorstep waiting for the door to open was an additional humiliation in his eyes. Soon, however, it was opened. As he saw her standing there just inside the door he was inclined to kiss her; for at sight of her his rancor seemed to have dropped from him, but she held her hand out to him, and they shook hands instead.

He followed her into the room. Two settees in cold and dismal chintz, a Turkey carpet in gray and blue, a bright fire in one corner—all struck him to the heart with an appalling desolation.

She asked him would he take tea, and he said "Yes;" then she spoke to him about mutual friends, about his people; while he saw nothing, and looking straight before him, felt nothing but the intense discomfort of having to talk in that abominable, that cold and cheerless room.

She was pouring out the tea to him, and her hand was steady as in days gone by—and this, too, struck him as harsh and unnecessarily prosaic. But, of course, it was necessary for her to show that their quarrel had not particularly affected her. He put out his hand for the cup, but his hand shook, and the tea went slopping into the saucer. Vaguely discomfited, he put it on the floor by him. How sick he felt!

But yes, of course she was talking, and he collected himself to listen to her. Had he heard that poor John was just dead? His own eyes filled with tears as he thought of himself in identical plight. He, too, might easily be dead.

He felt so wretched; she surely must have noticed it. Perhaps she was pitying him. Anger took possession of him. She to pity him when all the time he knew that he was the stronger, but because he had been ill was placed in an equivocal position—she who out of her weakness always craved sympathy and tolerance. Sympathy! . . . and suddenly he smiled to himself secretly, and as though wishing to remain unobserved, as he thought of the two wrestlers. One was fat and one was thin, and their antics were ludicrous, and they were always seeking each other's weaknesses. His face clouded again.

"If she were to come to me now I could forgive her," he said to himself. "But no, she might come because she is sorry I am wretched. She does not know it is sleeplessness. But I will not forgive her if it is pity she wants." His choler carried him away; he felt his face was beginning to look pinched and ghastly with passion. "I will kill her if she is pitying me;" and, to his astonishment, the words resounded as though he had spoken them. He looked at her and she was weeping. He was angry, and began muttering to himself: "It's just like water."

It's just like water." A gust of anger swept over him. "She is sorry for me, and she thinks that is sufficient to start all this sort of thing over again," he said. But he was not in a condition to concentrate for long; his thoughts reverted to himself, and again the woman became abstract and remote. She asked him about his plans in a mild, incurious way, and that struck him as the height of bad manners. "He did not know," he said. "He thought perhaps that he was going away for a while."

"You look tired," she said to him suddenly. "My God! how tired you look." Again a gust of anger swept him. She was pitying him, and he had come there intending to be strong—to resume relations only on his own terms and rather as a matter of complaisance on his part. And now, because he was unwell, she had him at a disadvantage and was sympathizing with him against his own will.

He felt himself going white—a peculiar kind of giddiness creeping upon him. It was with difficulty that he could sit straight in his chair. An easy-chair opposite him appeared seductive and as though inviting him to rest in it and to hide his face in its icy chintz, to release the impossible strain of holding his body upright. After an incredible time, as it seemed to him, he crossed over to this chair.

It made things worse. He could only see her now by turning his head, and this put too much strain on his eyes. The strain on his eyes began to affect his brain with a sort of auto-hypnosis. He began to feel that nothing in the world would be able to keep his eyes open a moment longer. How he wanted to sleep! The secret smile came again to his lips. The woman mustn't matter—stranger or not. He would sleep, and after he would perhaps feel better. And again he smiled at the thought of the wrestlers—for one was fat and one was thin, and they looked for each other's weaknesses in the most ludicrous manner. He turned his head sleepily to look at her, and she was staring into the fire.

His thoughts became confused. He was in a ship tossed into impossible abysses one moment and the next swept sky-high on the crest of huge waves. But he knew that in a moment it would all be peaceful again and that then he would at last be able to sleep.

He stirred a little, like a sleeping child, rebellious yet acquiescent, and would not wake, for warm arms were round his neck and tears on his face.

From *Town Talk*.

♦♦♦♦

## The Lake Boats

By Edgar Lee Masters

IN an old print  
I see a thicket of masts on the river,  
But in the prints to be  
There will be the lake boats  
With port holes, funnels, rows of decks  
Huddled like swans by the docks,  
Under the shadows of cliffs of brick.  
And who will know from the prints to be,  
When the *Albatross* and the *Golden Eagle*,  
The flying craft which shall carry the vision  
Of impatient lovers wounded by Spring  
To the shaded rivers of Michigan,  
That it was the *Missouri*, the *Iowa*  
And the *City of Benton Harbor*  
Which lay huddled like swans by the docks?

You are not Lake Leman,  
Walled in by Mt. Blanc.  
One sees the whole world round you,  
And beyond you, Lake Michigan.  
And when the melodious winds of March  
Wrinkle you and drive on the shore  
The serpent rifts of sand and snow,  
And sway the giant limbs of oaks,  
Longing to bud.  
The boats put forth for the ports that began to stir,  
With the creak of reels unwinding the nets,  
And the ring of the caulking wedge.  
But in the June days—

The *Alabama* ploughs through liquid tons  
Of sapphire waves,  
She sinks from hills to valleys of water,  
And rises again,  
Like a swimming gull. . . .  
I wish a hundred years to come, and forever  
All lovers could know the rapture  
Of the lake boats sailing the first Spring days  
To coverts of hepatica,  
With the whole world sphering round you,  
And the whole of the sky beyond you.

I knew the captain of the *City of Grand Rapids*.  
He had sailed the seas as a boy,  
And he stood on deck against the railing  
Puffing a cigar,  
Showing in his eyes the cinema flash of the sun on  
the waves.

It was June and life was easy. . . .  
One could lie on deck and sleep  
Or sit in the sun and dream,  
People were walking the decks and talking,  
Children were singing.  
And down on the purser's deck  
Frank Walker was dancing by himself  
Whirling around like a dervish.  
And this captain said to me:  
"No life is better than this,  
I could live forever  
And do nothing but run this boat  
From the dock at Chicago to the dock at Holland  
And back again."

One time I went to Grand Haven  
On the *Alabama* with Charley Shippey.  
It was dawn, but white dawn only,  
Under the reign of *Leucothea*;  
And we volplaned, so it seemed, from the lake  
Past the lighthouse into the river  
And afterward laughing and talking  
Hurried to Van Deezer's restaurant  
For breakfast.  
(Charley knew him and talked of things  
Unknown to me as he cooked the breakfast)  
Then we fished the mile's length of the pier  
In a gale full of warmth and moisture  
Which blew the gulls about like confetti,  
And flapped like a flag the linen duster  
Of a fisherman who paced the pier,  
(Charley called him Rip Van Winkle),  
The only thing that could be better  
Than this day on the pier  
Would be its counterpart in heaven  
As Swedenborg would say—  
Charley is fishing somewhere now, I think.

There is a grove of oaks on a bluff by the river  
At Berrien Springs.  
There is a cottage that eyes the lake  
Between pines and silver birches  
At South Haven.  
There is the invincible wonder of wooded shore  
Curving for miles at Saugatuck.  
And at Holland a beach like Schoevigen's.  
And at Charlevoix the sudden quaintness  
Of an old-world place, the sea.  
There are the hills around Elk Lake  
Where the blue of the sky is so still and clear  
It seems it was rubbed above them  
By the swipe of a giant thumb.  
And beyond these the Little Traverse Bay  
Where the roar of the breeze goes round  
Like a roulette ball in the groove of the wheel,  
Circling the bay,  
And beyond these Mackinac and the Cheneaux  
Islands—  
And beyond these a great mystery—

Neither ice floes, nor winter's palsy  
Stays the tide in the river.  
And under the shadows of cliffs of brick  
The lake boats  
Huddled like swans  
Turn and sigh like women who are sleeping—  
They are longing for the Spring.

## Letters From the People

### Choosing the Lesser Evil

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

I read the pamphlet No. 106 of International Conciliation, being the views of Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan on "Preparedness," with much interest, and although it may sound strange, I agree heartily with both of them.

With Mr. Bryan, I have always considered a standing army and a large navy as an inducement to trouble and I still consider them such, but the developments of the last two and one-half years have convinced me that we can no longer choose between safety and danger but must take the least dangerous of two admittedly dangerous courses, and that seems to me to be preparation.

And preparation, it seems to me, means universal service, as in no other way can we hope to get a democratic army or hope to have a trained population which could effectively respond in case of a just and therefore popular war. The danger of "Rooseveltism" could be best guarded against by making training compulsory, but response in time of war voluntary. No Roosevelt could then rush the country into war that did not meet with popular approval, because he would not have the army. If the matter were one of self-defense, a trained population would voluntarily then respond in sufficient numbers or a conscription law would be passed in about five minutes; but if the cause were aggression and of doubtful justice, it would be very difficult to get either a voluntary or a conscript army. It seems to me that this would interpose as much of a safeguard as it is possible to have when dealing with some dangerous weapons.

With Mr. Taft I believe that we have reached the time when we must choose preparation as the least dangerous of two dangerous courses, but I do not think his League of Peace goes far enough. I like much better Mr. Wilson's statement to the senate, which, it seems to me, is a truly democratic document which is bound to stand in history as one of the landmarks of the world's progress. To merely force delay while a quarrel is discussed and then stand off and hold the clothes of both parties while the dishonest party (who has utilized the delay for intensive preparation) eats up the honest party (who has conscientiously lived up to the international rule) would be an exceedingly unsatisfactory procedure. If we are going to have a League of Peace, let us give it a few teeth, especially as the teeth necessary to enforce discussion could also be used to enforce justice.

The outstanding fact in this whole discussion is that democratic peoples intend to be good neighbors and that the hope for the future is in the growth of democracy, the seeds of which seem to be springing up practically everywhere except among the Turks, the Germans and possibly the Japs.

Incidentally, the moving pictures showing Jap and Mexican intrigues against the peace of the United States, when supplemented, as is quite likely, by the reverse of this picture shown in Japan,

are very poor helps to international understanding and in the interests of preparation ought to be suppressed, rather than used to help on a propaganda for preparedness.

Yours very truly,

E. M. SCHOFIELD.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 31, 1917.

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### A Defense of Carranza

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

I read with great regret the article in the current number of the MIRROR relating to "Moving Out of Mexico." I am indeed surprised that you should express such an unfair opinion about Mexico and its constitutional chief, and that you should criticize, as you do, what the President has accomplished in Mexico. I have given the Mexican question no little study. I am frank to say that such study has very largely changed my views with reference to that unhappy country. When one considers the enormous difficulties that have beset

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Carranza, when one reflects upon the condition of the country before he became its chief, one has only to wonder at what he has accomplished. Take the matter of education alone. He has established more schools and gathered into those schools more of the youth of Mexico than have been previously in educational institutions in that country, at all events, within recent times. It is also true that in a large proportion of the states of Mexico, south of the northern tier of states, the country is quiet, peaceful, progressive. If Carranza is only left alone to continue his work, I mean left alone by the United States, there is every reason to hope that his administration will be a success.

I quote one sentence from your article. "Since in this expedition," you say, "we have failed to intimidate Carranza, but instead have submitted to his insolent demands in the face of the fact that he has been shown totally incompetent to restore order in Mexico," etc., I think a closer study by you of the actual progress made in Mexico will convince you that your phrase "totally incompetent" is not applicable to the conditions there, or to the first chief's ability. You speak of "insolent demands." What would we have thought, if, during some of the widely extended labor strikes in this country, the President of Mexico had offered to send an army into the United States to put down the "insurrection?" What if he had actually done



it? What would the President of the United States have said to such an insolent demand? Would it have been an insolent demand for our president to have insisted that the President of Mexico should immediately withdraw those troops? Yet that is, *mutatis mutandis*, the precise situation here.

If Carranza had not succeeded in getting the American troops out of Mexico, his difficulties with his own people would have been trebled or quadrupled. That he has succeeded, and that he has succeeded in doing so with so little loss of respect and confidence on either side, shows that he is a man of no little executive ability and no little *savoir faire*. We can help or we can hinder Mexico. Which shall it be?

Yours truly,

EVERETT W. PATTISON.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 5.

### How to Fill the War Chest

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

While we are all talking of war, why not think a little of the means of making war possible, that is, the taxes to raise the money to make war? What shall Uncle Sam tax? Booze? It's loaded to the limit. Imports? Our German cousins would make them scarce. Incomes? With war most of us would have no income. There is left only land, so why not work for a tax on the value of land, to support the army and navy and the widows and orphans and also the cripples. While congress is after means of raising money, a strong effort should be made to get a federal tax on the value of land. I hope the Single Taxers will work for this tax.

Respectfully submitted,

DAN HOGAN.

St. Louis, Feb. 3, 1917.

### From an Admirer of the Kaiser

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

Will you, with your larger opportunities, point out for me the "nigger in the woodpile" in all this sudden war scare? To a man up a tree it looks about like this: We are the head and front of neutral nations. We avow loudly that we play no favorites. England blockades the German coast for thirty months, an illegal blockade, according to all the authorities on international law, and one that is seriously damaging to our commerce and our home industries. We make mild protest, and let it go at that. England has announced from the first that it was her unswerving purpose to starve the civilian population of Germany until the army would be forced to give up the fight, "to save the women and children." Now Germany, when her proposal to discuss possible terms for ending the war is flung in her face with the retort that England intends to "fight to a finish," declares a blockade of the British coast for the purpose of starving England into a willingness to discuss peace, and straightway the president severs diplomatic relations with Germany.

Along with that news comes the carefully worded announcement that the *Housatonic* was sunk without warning, and that American lives were saved by the intervention of brave, British seamen. When the lie has done its work,

we are told that the *Housatonic* was not sunk without warning, and moreover, that the Americans on board were rescued by the crew of the German submarine and carried until they could be turned over to a British patrol boat. That is a fair sample of all the "German atrocity" stories that have so successfully poisoned the American mind against the enemies of Great Britain.

Our hearts are wrung by the stories of the wrong of Belgium, the shameful violation of her neutrality; when history shows that in Gladstone's time England admitted that the treaty concerning Belgian neutrality was no longer binding on the nations that had signed it. That was before the German Empire had been formed, and the Prussian treaty concerning Belgium was never ratified by the Empire. More than this, the powerful fortresses near the German frontier in Belgium were built by French engineers, with French money—a line of work that was going on at the very time that Delcasse arose in the Chamber of Deputies and shouted:

"France need not fear to provoke war with Germany, since we have the assurance that within forty-eight hours England will seize the Kiel Canal and land

a hundred thousand British troops in the heart of Germany."

By comparison with such a threat, what is there to the von Bernhardt book on which our case against Germany is based, a book that was almost immediately suppressed and that not one man in a thousand in Germany ever heard of? For the writing of that book, the author was severely censured and retired from his exalted place in the army. Yet Arthur Boucher and M. Keller wrote similar works in French, calling upon France to destroy Germany, and Keller's book actually demands the annexation of Belgium to France. And Homer Lea, in his book, "The Day of the Saxon," published the following year, says: "It is the first duty of the British nation to arrest and destroy German power."

France and England did not rebuke these men for their intemperate utterances, nor are they condemned in America. Greece is outraged, her neutrality violated in every manner possible by the Entente powers, and we do not raise a hand in protest. An English nurse is executed for prostituting her calling, in her effort to enable British prisoners with military secrets to escape, and the

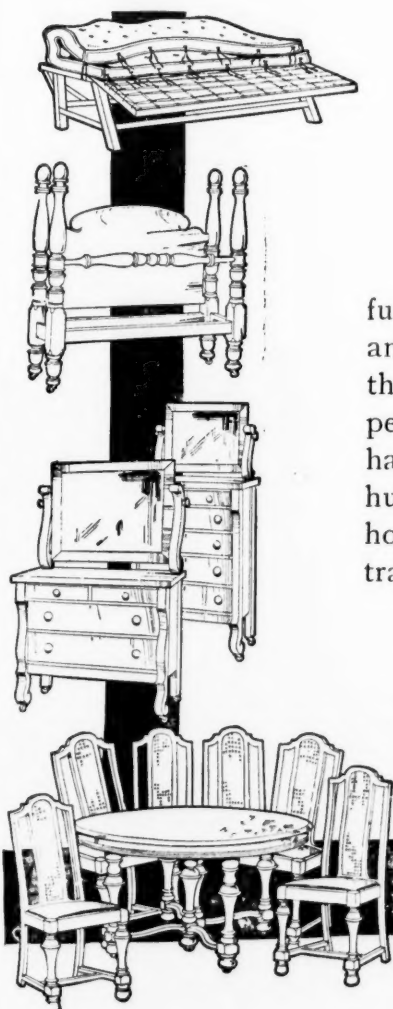
whole American people goes mad with horror. Yet a week before Edith Cavell was condemned, two German women who were acting in a similar capacity in France were executed, and we read the news with complacency.

Germans were deported from the little section of Alsace which the French captured, and Germans and Austrians were deported by Russia from East Prussia and Galicia, sent to the horrors of Siberia; but this action seemed to be entirely within the lines of "humanity." But when "lazy Belgians," as many letters to the London papers characterize the Belgians who early in the war took refuge in England, are sent to Germany and put to work, we call mass meetings to protest such inhumanity.

I, for one, cannot see the logic of our attitude. I am an American, born and bred, but my study of world history did not begin on the first day of August, 1914. I am not so young but that I can remember the time when England was the hereditary enemy of the United States, and I still possess a love of fair play and an admiration for pluck and courage—an appreciation of true sportsmanship—which formerly characterized my countrymen as a nation. All the

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big, splendid things of this frightful war have been done by the Germans. Whenever the Entente feels the gaff, it whimpers and calls on America to protest. I have not forgotten that, during the Spanish-American war the sympathy of France was entirely with Spain, that America was regularly caricatured in the Paris papers as a disgusting fat hog, and that the French actually spat in the faces of Americans on the streets of Paris. Yet we send 50,000 American boys to fight the present battle of the French, and we send uncounted millions of money to the aid of the nation which at heart despises us.

What do we hope to gain by rushing into the conflict? Do we imagine that we will curry lasting favor with England? What can we expect from the nation that fought Spain until her rivalry was no longer to be feared; that fought France for two hundred years, until she, too, was crippled and out of the running; that picked a quarrel with Holland when that little nation began to build up a great merchant marine, and that twice destroyed the navy of Denmark, without a vestige of excuse? If we get in England's way, as Germany lately has been getting in her way, do we fancy that she will be merciful to us because of present help? There is nothing in British history to justify such a belief. Indeed, every step of her empire-building career argues against it. Or are we, as a nation, coming to the viewpoint of Boston and Philadelphia, that we are actually nothing but a run-away colony of Great Britain that is itching to be taken back into the family circle? Do we agree with the East, that the men of '76 made a great mistake?

Or is the president just bluffing, in order to get congress to pass his big defense appropriation bill? Is he trying to put America on a foundation on which she will dare to defend her rights in the face of all other nations, England included?

In deep perplexity,

JASON M. WAKEFIELD,  
St. Louis, February 8.

### People Tricked, Not Father Time

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

Mr. Alpheus Stewart, writing under the title, "To Trick Father Time," says the people who are backing the national daylight saving movement are a lot of simpletons.

Now, it happens that the writer lives in Cleveland where this daylight saving plan was thrashed out over two years ago. I was writing for the *Cleveland Press* and handled the campaign that put the new plan across. There were a lot of people who, like Mr. Stewart, thought it was a fool scheme, but we won over their opposition. To-day, there would be a revolution in Cleveland if an attempt was made to go back to the old plan.

Daylight saving is not a plan to trick Father Time, but it is a plan by which a whole city can be tricked into rising one hour earlier in the morning *by the sun* and retiring one hour earlier *by the sun*.

For instance, suppose a man works in an office which opens at 8:30 o'clock and closes at 5 o'clock. During the

summer months the sun rises between 3 and 4 o'clock and sets between 6 and 7 o'clock. Now, this man may get up at 5:30 in the morning if he wishes, but the chances are he will be the only man in his neighborhood to rise at that time. He may open his office at 7:30 but this will also be unsatisfactory if the firms with which he does business do not open until 8:30.

Again, he will inconvenience his customers if he closes his office at 4:30, an hour ahead of the customary closing time.

In other words, our hours of rising and retiring, opening and closing our offices and shops are fixed by custom and habit, not only of ourselves but of the community.

It has been demonstrated that the quickest way of changing these habits is by the simple device of an entire community, state or nation moving the hands of its clocks forward on a certain hour of a certain day.

When the change was made in Cleveland a few years ago, midnight of May 1 was fixed as the official time for this ceremony. In actual practice, everyone set his clock forward one hour before retiring. The result was that the morning following everyone rose at the usual time *by the clock*, although this was one hour earlier *by the sun*.

After the first day the city moved along in its usual way. But instead of the sun setting between 6 and 7 by the clock, it set between 7 and 8 by the clock, thus giving the community one more hour of daylight in the evening, when they wanted it, rather than in the morning when all were asleep.

The proposal of the National Daylight Saving Association is that the clocks of the nation be moved forward an hour in the spring and back again in the fall. This will have the effect of getting us all up an hour earlier in the summer months, thus giving us an hour more of daylight after we have finished our day's work.

Far from being a fool idea, it is a thoroughly sane idea.

Yours truly,

WILLIAM A. FEATHER.  
Cleveland, Feb. 5.

### The Portmanteau Theater

By Neil M. Martin

Two of the plays of Lord Dunsany are to be given in St. Louis on Wednesday and Thursday of next week when Stuart Walker brings his Portmanteau Theater to town and sets it up in the Victoria Theater for two performances under the auspices of the Little Playhouse Company of the Drama League.

On Wednesday night the Portmanteau players are to give "The Gods of the Mountain," probably the greatest of the plays of this brilliant Irishman whose plays are being so widely read, discussed and produced in America while he is fighting with his regiment "somewhere in France."

Many critics have given an estimate of Dunsany's work, but probably none of them has been more illuminating in his comments than Dunsany himself in his correspondence with Mr. Walker, who has produced three of the Dunsany plays this season.

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THERE are other smart suits in serges, Poirer twills and gabardines, in navy, black and all this season's most desirable shades. Suits for all occasions, and all unusual values at

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Dunsany deplors the spirit which is much abroad in the land of letters and art and which "leads people to look for a lesson in everything." Those who have tried to read "hidden meanings" into his plays and to treat them as

allegories will be somewhat shocked by his comments in one of the letters:

"I am not trying to teach anybody anything," he declares. "I merely set out to make a work of art out of a simple theme, and God knows we want



works of art in this age of corrugated iron. How people hold to the error that Shakespeare was of the school-room! Whereas he was of the playground, as all artists are.

"My work," he says elsewhere, "does not need explanation. One does not explain a sunset nor does one need to explain a work of art. One may analyze, of course, that is profitable and interesting, but the growing demand to be told what it's all about before one can enjoy, is becoming absurd.

"Don't let them hunt for allegories. I may have written an allegory at some time, but if I have, it was a quite obvious one, and as a general rule, I have nothing to do with allegories.

"What is an allegory? A man wants the streets to be swept better in his town or he wants his neighbors to have rather cleaner morals. He can't say so straight out, because he might be had up for libel, so he says what he has to say, but he says it about some extinct king in Babylon, but he's thinking of his one-horse town all the time. Now, when I write of Babylon, there are people who cannot see that I write of it for love of Babylon's way, and they think I'm thinking of London still and our beastly Parliament.

"Only I get further east than Babylon, even to the kingdoms that seem to me to lie in the twilight beyond the East of the World. I want to write about men and women and the great forces that have been with them from their cradle up—forces that the centuries have neither aged or weakened—not about people who are so interested about the latest mascot or motor that not enough remains when the trivial is sifted from them."

In another letter he congratulates Mr. Walker upon the success of the Portmanteau Theater and remarks that "though the world may be growing more barbarous in Flanders, what you tell me of your aspirations shows that elsewhere it is becoming more civilized. As a matter of fact it is not the ruins of Ypres, or of a street in Dublin, that show the high-water mark of our times' barbarity; it is to be seen in London in our 'musical comedies,' in much of our architecture and in toys made for children."

"The Gods of the Mountain" is to be presented on Wednesday night, together with Oscar Wilde's "The Birthday of the Infanta" and Mr. Walker's "Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil." On the following afternoon, "The Golden Doom" will be given with Mr. Walker's interlude, "Nevertheless," and his reworking of a Japanese legend, "The Lady of the Weeping Willow Tree."

The Portmanteau Theater is a little theater, complete in itself, which can be set up within the confines of any ordinary stage, as it will be at the Victoria, giving the effect of a double proscenium. Or, if no theater can be had, it can be set up in any hall or auditorium or barn or drawing-room with a ceiling 18 feet high, a width of 30 feet and a depth of 20 feet playing space, with enough more room to seat an audience. It has recently been visiting the principal universities of the East and Middle West and received much serious critical discussion during

its season in New York, at the Princess theater.

It is the invention of Stuart Walker, its director, who was for six years general stage director for David Belasco. But although he learned his trade with Belasco, he is working now in an entirely different spirit. Instead of the realism and close attention to detail, of which Belasco is a master, Mr. Walker's aim is to stimulate the imagination so that it will be able to supply its own details and to this end he has staged his plays in accordance with the newer ideas in stage decoration. The settings and costumes aim, first of all, to please the eye by their color and outline and never pretend to be merely "correct."

His work, strictly speaking, is not of the so-called *New Art* in the theater though. That is chiefly concerned with scenery and costumes, while Mr. Walker is chiefly concerned with the plays to be given and the players who interpret them.

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## Moore's "Louis XIV."

By Victor Lichtenstein

Final preparations are being made for the opening performance of Mr. Moore's romantic grand opera, "Louis XIV.," which will have its world premiere in St. Louis next Monday evening, and will be repeated on the 14th, 16th and 18th. The soloists are all in town and the fiery Verande is doing heroic work as stage director. The composer is working day and night, directing not only every soloist and orchestral rehearsal, but likewise all chorus rehearsals.

I wrote a brief synopsis of the story last week. Since that time I have heard most of the principals, and found the music far more beautiful than the score promised. Mme. Beriza, in the role of *Montalaise*, the young maid of honor to *Henrietta*, is ravishing to both eye and ear in her song in the first act, "Love is a Tempter, Like to a Serpent," which she interprets with a subtlety and an infinite variety of nuance simply enchanting. Miss Parnell, who will sing *La Valliere*, the leading female role, possesses a glorious, pure soprano, and has some of the brightest numbers in the opera allotted to her. I predict a popular success for her waltz song in the second act, which is later used as the theme of a brilliant, concerted finale for all the principals.

Constantino, the *King*, has a superb "Hymn to the Night" in Act III., which is possibly the finest number in the entire work. These, with the other principals, Picco, who will sing *Brayclonne*, the lover of *La Valliere*; Henri Scott, the role of *Athos*, father of *Brayclonne*; Silva, Leon, Mme. Lenska, Dua and Carl Cochems, form a company of stars unsurpassed by any similar troupe of operatic headliners ever heard in St. Louis, and at popular prices.

The orchestra will number fifty-two; with but a few exceptions, the pick of our Symphony orchestra. The production will be put on the boards in as artistic and thorough a style as forethought, skill and energy can accomplish. There is no doubt in my mind that in simple beauty and effectiveness,

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in brilliance of concerted numbers, in dramatic charm and movement, "Louis XIV." will make a distinctly popular appeal.

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## At the Theaters

A. H. Woods will present John Mason and his company at the Jefferson theater during the week commencing Sunday night, including mid-week and Saturday matinees, in the New York-Boston-Chicago dramatic sensation, "Common Clay," the Harvard prize play by Cleaves Kinkead. Taking for his theme the eternal problems of sex and property, Mr. Kinkead, according to the critics where "Common Clay" has been presented, has woven a story of unusual power and realism in his four acts. *Ellen Neal*, the central figure, whom circumstances treat so strangely, is credited with being one of the most sympathetic figures of the American stage. A moving eloquent plea for the innate quality of human beings, "Common Clay" is said to leave a lasting impression. Mr. Mason, as *Judge Filson*, is said to interpret a character most charmingly suited to his peculiar histrionic power.

❖

"A Daughter of the Gods" which has been screened at the Shubert-Garrick theater for a third week, is announced to continue at that house, commencing a fourth week with a matinee on Sunday next, and will continue to be shown twice daily. Some of the sea pictures in which Miss Kellerman figures, with 200 mermaids, for beauty of composition, lighting and general artistry, have never been equaled either on the screen or painted canvas. Some idea of the magnitude of the undertaking may be gained from the knowledge that 20,000 persons, 5,000 horses, a fleet of steamships and an entire island were needed to properly stage this Titan of classics. No area in the United States proved large enough for the purpose of proper production, so Mr. Fox leased from the British government an entire island at Kingston, Jamaica.

❖

The Columbia's headliner next week, beginning Monday, on an exceptionally attractive nine-act vaudeville bill, is Digby Bell in "Mind Your Own Business," a new sketch by Winchell Smith, author of "Turn to the Right." Paul



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Morton (of the Four Mortons) and Naomi Glass offer a musical satire called "1917-1956." Dorothy Shoemaker and company present a playlet, "Supper for Two," written by Percival Wilde. Others on the bill are Millicent Mower; Shelton Brooks and Clarence Bowen, who have written some of the most popular songs of the day, in "Two Dark Spots of Joy;" the Alaska Trio in "A Night on the Yukon," presenting sports of the frozen north and including fancy ice skating on a surface by an ingenious patent of their own; Edwin George in "A Comedy of Errors;" the Gerald's, Gypsy serenaders, and the Orpheum Travel Weekly.

❖

The discriminating play-goers of St. Louis have put the stamp of their approval on "A Dry Town," the houses are filled at every performance and now comes the announcement of another week at least of the new Ely play. Each

evening at the Grand avenue playhouse has been a social event, the patrons of the down-town theaters have taken up the production, and the management, the author and The Players are all feeling that their efforts at giving St. Louis a real premiere of a delightful new play have not been in vain. It is rumored that the Missouri Legislature is to be invited to view the play in a body before the run is over. On Saturday night, "The Town Club" has its big testimonial, when Governor Gardner and his charming wife will occupy a box in honor of the new play and of the Town Club.

Al Fields and Company, distributors of enjoyable comedy, will head a fine vaudeville bill at the Grand Opera House the week beginning Monday. Chas. F. Semon, "The Narrow Feller," will contribute a running fire of comedy talk, accompanied by a number of changes that make his freak music and bandy legs shrieks of mirth. Other good features will be Jimmy O'Neal and Frank Walmsley, in "The Two Pickers," with Hazel Kirke and Girlies; Van and Hazen, "natty entertainers;" Edward Marshall, in "Chalkology;" Taylor and Brown, in "Little Miss Fudget It;" Mae Page Taylor, singing comedienne; La Dore, the Aerial Venus, and new animated and comedy pictures.

The newest cartoon musical comedy, "Katzenjammer Kids," will be presented at the American for one week, commencing Sunday matinee. "Katzenjammer Kids" is the joint effort of David M. Wolff, who wrote the book and lyrics, and Donald H. Bestor, who is responsible for the jingly musical numbers. There are twenty jingly musical numbers in "Katzenjammer Kids." And there is the big fashion parade as a special treat for the ladies and the grand array of beautiful femininity which will please the eye of the sterner sex and makes "Katzenjammer Kids" a show for everybody.

For next Sunday evening a benefit

performance for Clara Gefrer is announced. She has chosen the play, "The Girl from Maxim's," a farce that keeps the hearer laughing from the first act to the curtain. Every one of the members will take part and Mrs. Gefrer will be at her best. She has done so much for the German theater in this city by her excellent ability that it would be only fair to show her due appreciation.

St. Louis musicians regard the visit here this week of the famous Belgian violinist, Eugen Ysaye, dean of living violinists as well as one of the greatest, as an important event. Three years ago, when the great master last came to St. Louis, he announced that he never would visit this city again. When he landed in America last month he declared he meant that, and that but for the necessity of raising money to replace the large fortune lost through the exigencies of war, he would never have crossed the Atlantic again. Ysaye was one of the richest musical artists of the time. Now he has nothing, and at sixty years of age is beginning to build another fortune. His three splendid estates, his priceless collection of manuscripts and violins, have been destroyed and he and the feminine members of his family are living with friends in London while his sons and son-in-law are fighting in the trenches.

Ysaye will be the soloist in the Symphony Orchestra concerts of Friday afternoon and Saturday evening this week. His big number will be a concerto for violin, string orchestra and organ by Vivaldi, and the smaller ones will be a "Romanza" by Beethoven and the "Havanaise" by Saint-Saens.

The programme includes a number by the violinist's brother, Theodore Ysaye, which Conductor Zach has listed out of compliment to the famous soloist of the programme.

John F. Kiburz, leader of the flute section of the orchestra, is announced as soloist for the Sunday afternoon popular concert.

## Marts and Money

Startling and sinister news from Berlin and Washington created pandemonium on the Wall Street Exchange. Large blocks of stocks were liquidated regardless of prices. Brokers had an exasperating time trying to protect their own interests. Many accounts had to be "closed out" at prices materially below the fixed levels. Some of the most meritorious issues registered declines varying from ten to fifteen points. Union Pacific common, an 8 per cent investment stock, fell from 144 to 131; Reading common, from 103 to 88½; New York Central, from 102 to 91, and Louisville & Nashville, from 132½ to 122. In the industrial department, United States Steel common recorded a drop from 114½ to 99; Republic Steel common, from 79 to 65; General Electric, from 171 to 161; American Locomotive common, from 76 to 62, and Studebaker common, from 107 to 94. In numerous instances, the latest minimum prices were below those established in the December crash. After it became known that President Wilson had severed diplomatic relations with Germany,



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quotations rallied four or five points, with bold and concerted buying of copper, equipment, and steel issues. It is reasonable to conclude that the worst has happened, that the "bear" crowd is covering, and that thousands of thrifty people are filling their strong boxes with first-class certificates. The usual "secondary" decline will probably be witnessed in a few days. It will bring no new bottom quotations, however, in the absence of supplementary serious developments. An actual declaration of war has already been "discounted."

For a while to come it will doubtless be a situation replete with uncertainties and alarms. There are no real precedents to guide traders in their opinions and actions. The public, having fared badly since last November, is not likely to show haste in joining another "bull" movement. The general disposition will be to go slow and easy, to play for turns of a few points, and to follow news and tendencies with keen and anxious eyes. In some circles it is argued, with unquestionable plausibility, that the latest events must bring the war to a close in a shorter time than had been thought probable two weeks ago. If this idea should gain in reasonableness in the next few weeks, the quoted values of desirable securities will go substantially above their prevailing levels. For it is not open to doubt that an early re-establishment of peace is considered a consummation devoutly to be wished by an increasing number of bankers, captains of industry, investors and merchants.

The prices of all foreign bonds and notes were more or less damaged by the smash on the Stock Exchange. They reflected, not only precipitous liquidation, compulsory and voluntary, for parties whose finances had become gravely imperilled, but also careful calculations as to the probability of heavy borrowing by the United States Government. The Anglo-French 5 per cent bonds declined to 92—a new absolute minimum. They were retailed, in October, 1915, at 98 to 98¾. City of Paris 6s, which sold at 99 some time ago, went down to 93. British 5½s, of 1921, declined to nearly 96. The recent top mark was 98¾. In the foreign exchange department, Italian

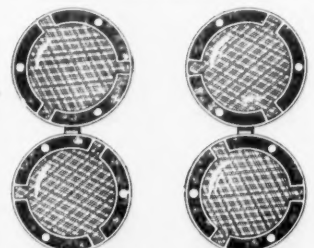
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bills drew attention by setting another low record—7.32 lire, against 7.20 a week ago. British, French, German, Austrian and Russian drafts registered no important changes. Strange to say, reichmarks scored a fractional recovery after the president's address in the senate. It was due, no doubt, to covering of some short contracts.

The Steel Corporation submitted a fine statement for the final quarter of 1914. It revealed net earnings of \$105,968,000—a new high record in the corporation's history of sixteen years. The figures for the previous or third quarter were \$85,817,000; for the second quarter, \$81,126,000, and for the first quarter, \$60,713,000. For the last three months of 1914, net earnings amounted to only \$10,933,000. The corresponding record in 1913 was \$23,036,000. The Finance Committee declared the regular common dividend of \$1.25 and \$1.75 extra. Owing to the bewildered state of minds on the exchange, the corporation's unique exhibit fell quite flat. It evoked generous selling for both accounts. We are warranted in assuming, however, that thoughtful and far-sighted people fully realized that the marvelous opulence of the greatest steel producer of the world must ultimately find commensurate reflection in the values of its common certificates. There are intimations that in the event of war with Germany, the Washington government will take control of many important industrial properties.

The price of New Haven & Hartford stock fell to 39 the other day, the lowest level on record. The persistent selling was attended by vague talk about a possible receivership in the near future. It was pointed out that a considerable amount of New Haven notes will fall due April 1, and that arrangements for taking them up have not yet been completed. In high financial quarters, the pessimistic rumors were denied and ridiculed, but the quotation for the shares has so far failed to rally to any noteworthy extent. On January 10, 1916, the price was 77½. It is difficult to understand why the great New England system should be thrown into receivers' hands. It is paying all fixed charges, and earning over 3 per cent on the outstanding stock. As a result of an official investigation, the state authorities of Massachusetts have fixed the real value of the New Haven system at \$100,000,000 less than the capitalization. Much of the selling of the company's stock in the last few months came from holders who had grown uneasy over the prospective severance of steamship lines and allied properties. It is to be hoped that the Federal government will see the justice of allowing the company a reasonable length of time in which to dispose of these assets on terms other than ruinous even in existing conditions. In this connection, it may be stated that the Pennsylvania and the New York Central Railroad Companies still are prominent owners of New Haven stock, their respective possessions being 48,125 and 15,456 shares. The Mutual Life Insurance Co., of New York, holds 35,640 shares; the American Express Co., 30,324, and the Adams Express Co., 24,730. Howard Elliott is not in favor with some of

the principal stockholders, but J. P. Morgan and associates retain their firm faith in him, and the occasional reports of his coming resignation from the presidency therefore receive no credence in Wall Street offices. It would be thoroughly absurd to expect Elliott to effect the needed rehabilitation in a few years. It requires extraordinary ability to redeem a system whose stock has recorded a depreciation of \$161 per share since 1900.

The week witnessed sensational movements also on the Grain and Cotton exchanges. The fluctuations in wheat prices covered eight to sixteen cents on one occasion. We are given to understand that the violent rise of last Saturday was the outcome, in the main, of a rush to cover a multiplicity of short commitments. In present circumstances, trading in either the grain or cotton markets calls for much more than average amounts of courage and cash. It is clearly apparent that the statistical positions remain in favor of prices substantially above the averages of pre-war years. As regards the inauguration of unrestricted submarine warfare, it will be advisable to refrain from leaping at large, premature conclusions. Potentially, of course, it is a "bear" factor of decided consequence. The declines in cotton options now amount to two hundred or three hundred points. Speculators in this commodity profess severe disappointment over the indefinite prolongation of the war. They had banked on selling millions of bales at unprecedented figures to Germany and Austria.

Bernard Baruch blushing admits that he raked in nearly \$500,000 by short selling last December. What in the world has become of Tom Lawson? The latest "leak" in the exchange was the real thing.

#### Finance in St. Louis.

The quotations for active St. Louis securities were not badly affected by the demoralized state of affairs in New York. Only in a few cases was the depreciation of some consequence. Demand showed no material contraction. Holders and would-be buyers held the belief that basic money and market conditions should be considered sound, and that Wall Street should feel the strengthening influences of eager bargain-hunting. Bank of Commerce declined to 115, which compares with a recent top mark of 117; the total of transfers was ninety-five shares. Twenty-five Mercantile Trust were sold at 360—an unchanged price; sixty-eight Mechanics-American National, at 250.50; ten Merchants-Laclede National, at 288.50; twenty St. Louis Union Trust, at 360; thirty Title Guaranty Trust, at 109, and fifteen Boatmen's Bank at 105. The market for certificates of this character indicates that weak holdings have been well eliminated, and that excellent support is extended whenever quotations run off a few points.

National Candy common, which in the past twelve months advanced from 5 to 26, is now obtainable at 22.50 to 23. The net decline for the week was two points. The aggregate of transfers com-

## Important Announcement to Mercantile Savers

WE WANT you to help us write a book entitled "100 Successful Savings Plans." As a Mercantile depositor you probably have your own way of economizing, your own plan of saving, your own special object in view. Help others to save by telling how and why you do it. Write your plan as a contribution to this book. For the best articles submitted we will give prizes aggregating \$500.00—a prize for every one of the 100 articles accepted and printed in this book.

First Prize .....	\$200.00
Second Prize .....	100.00
Third Prize .....	50.00
Fourth Prize .....	25.00
Fifth Prize .....	10.00
Next Twenty Prizes, \$2.00 .....	40.00
Next Seventy-five Prizes, \$1.00 .....	75.00
One Hundred Prizes .....	\$500.00

Send your plan immediately as we wish to announce the winners on April 2nd. Judges will be three prominent St. Louis business men. Please observe the following rules:

- 1—Only Mercantile Savings Depositors are eligible to compete.
- 2—You must give the number of your Mercantile Savings Account.
- 3—Articles must not contain more than 100 words.
- 4—Write only on one side of the paper.
- 5—Address it to "Successful Savings Plans" Contest, Mercantile Trust Co., Eighth and Locust.
- 6—More than one plan may be submitted, but only one prize will be awarded to any depositor.
- 7—Articles must be in our hands on or before March 25th.
- 8—No employe of the Mercantile Trust Co. or Mercantile National Bank may compete.

Announcement of the prize winners will be made in the newspapers on Monday, April 2nd.

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prised several hundred shares. Of the second preferred, eight shares were disposed of at 94. Fifteen Union Sand & Material brought 85; fifty Consolidated Coal, 19.50; ten Chicago Railway Equipment, 106.25; one hundred and five International Shoe common, 102.50 to 104, mostly the former; sixty Laclede Gas preferred, 99 to 99.50; sixty Ely-Walker D. G. second preferred, 87.50; ten first preferred, 109, eighty common, 104; fifty-five Hamilton-Brown Shoe, 140, and \$2,000 St. Louis Brewing Co., 70.25. The last-named securities used to sell at 100 and over some eighteen years ago. The Independent Breweries Co. has declared a 1 per cent dividend on its first preferred stock. United Railways 4s were a trifle lower; about \$14,000 were sold at 61.75. The minimum a few months ago was 59. The preferred stock was active; nearly five hundred shares were sold at 16 to 16.37½. St. Louis & Suburban general 5s declined from 73

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to 72.75, \$2,000 being transferred at the latter figure.

Business continues good at the local financial establishments. Clearings show gains week after week, ranging from 20 to 35 per cent. Mercantile paper of the best class is rated at 3½ to 4 per cent; the extremes for time loans remain at 4 to 5 per cent.

## Latest Quotations.

Nat. Bank of Commerce	108 1/2	110
Mercantile Trust	356	360
St. Louis Union Trust	350	360
United Railways pfd.		16 1/2
do 4s	60 3/4	61 1/4
Union Sand & Material	85	
Ely & Walker com.	96	100
do 1st pfd.	108	
do 2nd pfd.	84 1/2	87 1/2
International Shoe com.	99 3/4	
do pfd.	110	111 1/2
Hydraulic P. Brick com.	3 1/2	5
Central Coal & Coke com.	57	60 1/2
Granite-Bimetallie	65	67 1/2
National Candy com.	21 3/4	25

## Answers to Inquiries.

**STOCKHOLDER, Iola, Kan.**—Miami Copper pays \$6 a year, and is likely to maintain this rate all through 1917. The present price—34—is the lowest since last August. In November, sales were made at 49 3/4. There can be no criticism as to the property's finances. They are in first-class condition. The stock would sell at a considerably higher price if the life of the mines were not limited to ten or twelve years, in so far as high-grade ore is concerned. However, there may be a material change in estimates of mining engineers by and by, and if so, you will do very well on your investment. Don't worry about the fluctuations. They are inevitable, and thoroughly wholesome.

**K. D. W., Madison, S. D., Financier.**—There should be substantial improvement, in the next few years, in the quotation for Chicago, M. & St. Paul preferred. The stock is well worth buying for permanent purposes, the dividend rate being 7 per cent and not in danger of reduction or suspension. It is improbable, though, that the price will return to the high level of 1910—172 1/4. The stock would be in better demand, and selling at about 135, if the safety of the 5 per cent common dividend could be considered unquestionable. Aside from these marked considerations, it can justly be declared that the St. Paul is one of the most promising railroad systems in the United States.

**PUZZLED, St. Louis.**—The decline in new Missouri Pacific common has no particular unfavorable significance. It was the result of the break in the general market. If your finances are in a comfortable state, you would do the right thing in adding to your holdings. The stock has heavily been bought for some time, and should give an interesting account of itself in the next upward movement. It is estimated that the company should earn 7 or 8 per cent on the common, in the first or second fiscal year, after providing for the full 5 per cent on the preferred.

**INVESTOR, Jacksonville, Ill.**—The \$5 yearly dividend on American Woolen common is not regarded as secure. This accounts for the prevailing low price of 40. Cannot recommend a purchase of it for investment purposes. You ought to buy the preferred, which has paid 7 per cent per annum ever since 1900. The quoted price—96—assures you of a nice net yield. About a year ago, the stock was rated at 102.

**E. W. B., Dallas, Tex.**—The Southern Pacific could doubtless raise its yearly rate from 6 to 7 per cent without jeopardizing its financial position in the least. Whether it will do so in the next twelve months, is hard to say in existing circumstances. The ruling quotation of 92 does not uphold hopeful expectations along this line. All railroad companies are following unusually cautious policies, and consider it advisable to be amply prepared for possible or probable changes and emergencies. The Norfolk & Western, which lately declared another 1 per cent extra, can afford to be a little liberal because of the relative stability of its earnings.

## New Books Received

Orders for any books reviewed in REEDY'S MIRROR will be promptly filled on receipt of purchase price, with postage added, when necessary. Address, REEDY'S MIRROR, St. Louis, Mo.

**THE PHILOSOPHY OF WILLIAM JAMES** by Th. Flournoy; authorized translation by Edwin B. Holt and William James, Jr. New York: Henry Holt & Co.; \$1.30 net.

A critical study of the philosophy of William James together with sufficient biographical material to give a touch of his personality. The author is professor in the faculty of sciences at the University of Geneva, known in this country for his "Spiritism and Psychology."

**CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE** by John Dewey and others. New York: Henry Holt & Co.; \$2.00.

The doctrine of pragmatism in a new form, presented by eight essayists in as many essays, each responsible only for his own utterance. The volume presents unity in attitude rather than uniformity of results.

**PORFIRIO DIAZ** by David Hannay. New York: Henry Holt & Co.; \$2.00.

An authentic biography of the most powerful Mexican of the century, combined with a lively picture of Mexico. Of the series of "Makers of the Nineteenth Century," edited by Basil Williams. Bibliography, chronology, index, portrait frontispiece.

**HERBERT SPENCER** by Hugh Elliot. New York: Henry Holt & Co.; \$2.00.

A most interesting account of the life and philosophy of Herbert Spencer, his achievements and the difficulties encountered. Of the series of "Makers of the Nineteenth Century," edited by Basil Williams. Bibliography, chronology, index, portrait frontispiece.

**HYGIENE IN MEXICO** by Alberto J. Pani, C. E. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; \$1.50.

The author premises that there exists a precise and direct proportion between the sum of civilization acquired by a country, and the degree of perfection reached in its administration and stewardship of the public health, and follows with an exposition of present conditions in Mexico as he finds them—a study of sanitary and educational problems. Translated by Ernest L. de Gogorza.

**A SOLDIER OF LIFE** by Hugh de Selincourt. New York: MacMillan & Co.; \$1.50.

An unusual war novel, dealing not with battlefields or war conditions in general, but with the effect of war upon the soldier. It is related in the first person by one who returns from war a cripple and a victim of hallucinations brought about by his shattered nerves, who must eternally battle against impending insanity.

**OPERATIVE OWNERSHIP** by James J. Finn. Chicago: Langdon & Co.; \$1.50.

A system of industrial production based upon social justice and the rights of private property, designed to enforce a just division between capital and labor of the wealth which they jointly produce, enabling industrial tool-users to become tool-owners, thereby effecting a more general diffusion of wealth among the people, inspiring a more general regard for the rights of private property, and by a real union of capital and labor providing a safeguard to private industry against excessive governmental regulation. Indexed.

## Books We Do Not Intend to Buy

II.—THE BULL-DOZIA ENCYCLOPAEDIA

Second on Mr. Gooch's list of undesirable books is the famous and widely advertised "Bull-Dozia Encyclopaedia." He quotes from the advertising circular. "It is headed," he writes, "by a cut of an offensive-looking man in a frock coat—half-way between a patent medicine vendor and a third-class revivalist. This person is represented as saying: 'Now I have the 'Bull-Dozia,' I can answer any question you put.'"

The text of the advertisement follows: Are You Really Educated?

Or Are You Ignorant?

Do You Know:

Whether a walrus can stand on his hind legs?

How old Cicero's mother lived to be?

What is the highest of the Ozark Mountains?

Why grass is not pink?

Who will be the next king of Nyajamba-Nyajamba?

What a woodchuck thinks about?

How much Louis XIV weighed?

How long it would take a turkey to fly to Jupiter?

What makes water wet?

What is the national debt of Bolivia?

Do oysters chew their food?

Whether Daniel Webster wore suspenders?

What George Washington would have thought about Beethoven?

Now how many of these questions can you answer? Without consulting an authority, we mean. Not many of them? Then, you see, you are suffering from a lack of education. You are handicapped. You cannot rise in the world. You will always remain like you are now. You can't get ahead. You need education. Listen to what these leaders of men say about education:

I believe in education.—Woodrow Wilson.

I heartily approve of education.—Wm. H. Taft.

Education is very nice.—T. Roosevelt.

You see what this means. How do you suppose these men rose to their high positions? By education. By being able to answer, at a moment's notice, questions like these. Every one of them has the Bull-Dozia in his library, ready to consult at any moment. You can have it, too. Just fill out and mail the attached coupon, which will bring you information how you can get the Bull-Dozia in 77 easy monthly payments of fifteen dollars, handsomely boxed, money refunded if not satisfactory, and does not render you liable for anything except to have your mail filled with trash for the next ten years.

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—"The Librarian" in the Boston Transcript.

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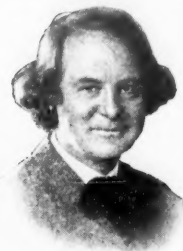
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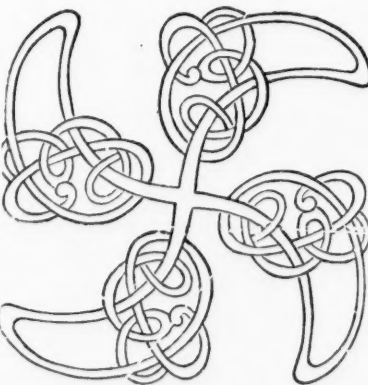
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Laura Nelson Hall, in "The Cat and  
the Kitten," by Frances Nordstrom.  
Bert Kalmar and Jessie Brown, in  
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Herbert Williams & Hilda Wolfus  
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Bert Levy,  
The Famous Artist Entertainer.  
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2:15—8:15  
Charlie Howard & Co. with Margaret  
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Johnny Cantwell and Reta Walker  
in "Get the Fly Stuff."  
Buck Pielert and Abbie Schofield  
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Orpheum Travel Weekly,  
The World at Work and Play.  
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Al Fields & Co., distributors of enjoyable comedy, in a sketch entitled, "The  
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Chas. F. Semon, the narrow feller. Jimmie O'Neil and Frank Walmsley, in  
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Wednesday Evening, February 14, 8:30:  
"Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil"—"The Birthday of the Infanta"  
—"Gods of the Mountains."

Thursday Matinee, February 15—3:15:  
"Nevertheless"—"The Lady of the Weeping Willow Tree"—"The Golden  
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# Referendum

To Every American Citizen:

For two and a half years President Wilson has given to the Country an inspiring example of patience and thoughtful deliberation. We must now share his burden and his responsibility. It is necessary in this Crisis that Members of Congress ---in whom is vested the right to declare war--- should know what the people want them to do. We ask you to answer Yes or No to the two essential questions below and mail your answer at once to your Congressman in Washington.

*If you want to spread this point of view widely over the country, send money at once to  
EMERGENCY OFFICE,  
Room 1034, 75th Ave.,  
New York City, and it will  
be used for nothing else.*

Issued by:

Amos Pinchot  
Max Eastman  
Winthrop D. Lane  
Randolph Donrue

Committee for Emergency Office.

*[In modifying war zone note, Germany has offered safe passage for all American passenger ships which keep to a presented course and which our government guarantees free from contraband.]*

1. Do you think we should enter this war in order to uphold our legal right to go into the war zone, regardless of these conditions?
2. Do you think that the people should be consulted by referendum before Congress declares war—except in case of invasion?

YES | NO

*[A National Advisory Referendum is not unconstitutional and could be carried out by the Census Bureau through the postmasters in 25 days.]*

Sign here

Name.....

Address.....

Sign, tear off and mail to your Congressman at once.